

26 Cadets Graduate from Fit For Gold Academy

Twenty-six cadets graduated from the Fit for Gold Tutoring & Fitness Academy and were awarded medals during ceremonies presented by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), June 28, 2007, at the Hawthorne Memorial Center.

Participating in the ceremonies were Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director, and Wayne Spencer, President of the SBWIB Board of Directors.

Three \$500 SBWIB/Hawthorne Mayor Larry Guidi Scholarships were awarded to: Aaron Nicholas, a St. Bernard High School graduate; Ashley Welker, a Hawthorne High School graduate; and Roy Ruiz, a Leuzinger High School graduate. Donna Orozco, a Lawndale High School graduate, received a \$1,000 scholarship from The Gas Company which was presented by Dennis Lord, Public Affairs representative.

Nearly 100 high school and college students are recruited annually as Fit for Gold Cadets from local high schools to assist more than 2,700 elementary and middle school students in 24 after-school programs. The cadets must complete 24 hours of training in mentoring, nutrition, playground activities and homework assistance with Gold's Gym, A World Fit for Kids, Inc., the U.S. Handball Association and the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Friday Night Live Program.

The cadets work after school two to three hours a day for approximately 80 hours per semester. They are paid a wage or stipend through the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Since 2003, the Fit for Gold Cadets have attained exceptional academic and personal development achievements including: 87 percent improve by at least one grade level in reading and or math; 92 percent successfully complete all program requirements; 100 percent graduate high school; and 93 percent enroll in community college or a four-year college or university.
